

Applicants: Shi Du Yan, et al.
Serial No.: 10/577,382
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REMARKS

In the December 3, 2008 Office Action, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 and §372 contending that the inventions are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

- I. Claims 1-5 and 9-19, drawn to a method for treating a subject to reduce neuronal damage via administering a RAGE antibody to a subject.
- II. Claims 1-4, 6, 9-18 and 20, drawn to a method for treating a subject to reduce neuronal damage via administering a RAGE anti-sense molecule to a subject.
- III. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-19 and 1, drawn to a method for treating a subject to reduce neuronal damage via administering a RAGE RNAi molecule to a subject.
- IV. Claims 1-4, 8-18 and 22, drawn to a method for treating a subject to reduce neuronal damage via administering a RAGE catalytic nucleic acid to a subject.
- V. Claims 25 and 26, drawn to an article of manufacture.

The Examiner further indicated that applicants are required to elect one of the following single disclosed species of neuronal damage listed below for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claims, i.e., claims 1 and 15, are finally held to be allowable:

Species of neuronal damage:

- cell death in the hippocampus;
- cell death in the cerebral cortex;
- cell dysfunction in the hippocampus; or
- cell dysfunction in the cerebral cortex.

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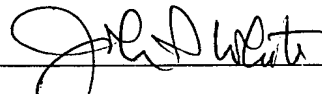
In response to the restriction requirement, applicants hereby elect Group I, i.e. claims 1-5 and 9-19, drawn to a method for treating a subject to reduce neuronal damage via administering a RAGE antibody to a subject.

In response to the species election, applicants hereby elect cell death in the hippocampus as the species of neuronal cell damage. Applicant notes that the claims which encompass the elected species of cell death in the hippocampus are claims 3 and 17.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Communication. If any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.


Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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December 31, 2008
Date